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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference WO 800135-VB	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NL00/00163	International filing date (day/month/year) 10/03/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 11/03/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01N29/26		
Applicant A. HAK INDUSTRIAL SERVICES B.V.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 07/08/2000	Date of completion of this report 11.04.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Van der Goot, D Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2562 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL00/00163

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-5 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-6 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/1 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

S ction V

1. The invention relates to an apparatus for internal inspection of pipes and tubes comprising an ultrasonic measuring head and a cable coupled to the measuring head, which cable can be coupled outside the pipe or tube to be inspected to a device processing the measurement data. Such apparatus is generally known in the field of ultrasonic inspection of pipes or tubes.
2. A problem that manifests itself in the prior art apparatus is that it becomes lodged after having passed a number (2 à 3) of bends, particularly so-called return bends, in the pipe or tube to be inspected.
The object of the invention is to provide an apparatus that does not have this problem.
3. To that end the apparatus defined in claim 1 differs from the prior art apparatus (art. 33(2) PCT) in that it is provided with a reel for winding the cable on and off, which reel in the forward-moving direction of the measuring head is located behind the measuring head at the distal end of the apparatus.
4. The subject matter of claim 1 also satisfies the requirements of inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT), since none of the documents available from the international search report shows or in any way hints at the possibility of providing the apparatus with a reel as set out in claim 1, nor is there any mention of the problem underlying the present invention. The skilled person, therefore, finds no indication in these documents which would lead him to the subject matter defined in claim 1 of the present application without any inventive effort.
4. The industrial applicability (Art. 33(4) PCT) of the claimed subject matter is beyond doubt.
5. Novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability of the dependent claims 2-6 follow from the dependency of these claims on the independent claim 1.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/NL00/00163

Section VIII

Clarity objection under Art. 6 PCT

The term '**behind**' used in claim 1 to define the location of the reel lacks a proper reference such as e.g. the forward-moving direction of the meaasuring head (see page 3, lines 31-34 of the description).